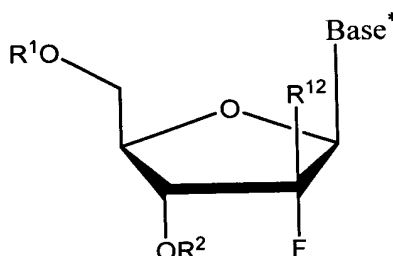


### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are or were in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier.

1.-11. Canceled.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for the treatment of a host infected with a hepatitis C virus, comprising administering to the host infected with a hepatitis C virus an effective ~~treatment~~ amount of a compound ~~or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein the compound has~~ having the formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R¹ is H; mono-, di- or triphosphate; acyl; an amino acid ester; a carbohydrate; a peptide; or a pharmaceutically acceptable leaving group which when administered *in vivo* provides a compound wherein R¹ is H or phosphate;

R² is H; acyl; an amino acid ester; a carbohydrate; a peptide; or a pharmaceutically acceptable leaving group which when administered *in vivo* provides a compound wherein R² is H;

Base\* is a purine or pyrimidine base;

R¹² is C(Y³)₃; and

Y³ is independently H, or F.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein R² is H.

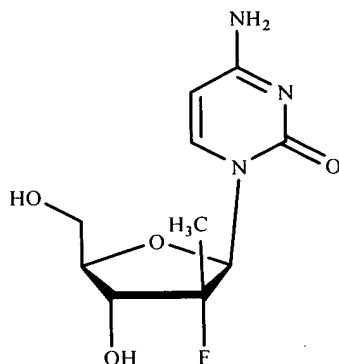
14.-17. Canceled.

18. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is in the form of a dosage unit.
19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 wherein the dosage unit contains 50 to 1000 mg.
20. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein the dosage unit is a tablet or capsule.
21. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the host is a human.
22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is ~~in substantially pure form~~ at least 85% by weight of the  $\beta$ -D-isomer.
23. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is at least 90% by weight of the  $\beta$ -D-isomer.
24. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is at least 95% by weight of the  $\beta$ -D-isomer.
25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the compound is in the form of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt selected from the group consisting of a tosylate, methanesulfonate, acetate, citrate, malonate, tartarate, succinate, benzoate, ~~ascor~~ate~~ate~~ascorbate,  $\alpha$ -ketoglutarate,  $\alpha$ -glycerophosphate, formate, fumarate, propionate, glycolate, lactate, pyruvate, oxalate, maleate, salicylate, sulfate, nitrate, hydrobromate, hydrochloride, di-hydrochloride, and phosphoric acid salt.
26. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable salt is a hydrochloride salt.
- 27.-43. Canceled.
44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein  $Y^3$  is H.
45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein  $R^2$  is acyl.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein  $R^2$  is an amino acid ester.
47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein  $R^2$  is a peptide.
48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein  $R^2$  is a carbohydrate.
49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein  $R^1$  is hydrogen.
50. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein ~~the base~~ Base\* is a purine base.
51. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein ~~the base~~ Base\* is a pyrimidine base.
52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the pyrimidine base is cytosine.
53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the pyrimidine base is thymine.
54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the pyrimidine base is uracil.
55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50, wherein the purine base is adenine.
56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50, wherein the purine base is guanine.
57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein acyl is of the formula  $C(O)R'$ , wherein  $R'$  is a straight, branched or cyclic alkyl.
58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein acyl is of the formula  $C(O)R'$ , wherein  $R'$  is aryl, alkaryl, aralkyl, alkoxyalkyl or aryloxyalkyl.
59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein acyl is of the formula  $C(O)R'$ , wherein  $R'$  is aryl.
60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein  $R^2$  is acetyl.
61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein  $R^2$  is propionyl, butyryl, hexanoyl or 2-propenyl.
62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein  $R^2$  is an amino acid selected from the group consisting of glycine, alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, methionine, phenylalanine, tryptophan, proline, serine, threonine, cysteine, tyrosine, asparagine, glutamine, aspartate, glutamate, lysine, arginine and histidine.
63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein  $R^2$  is an ester of a naturally occurring or synthetic  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $\gamma$  or  $\delta$  amino acid.

64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein  $R^2$  is an ester of an amino acid in the L configuration.
65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein  $R^2$  is an ester of valine.
66. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 62, wherein the host is human.
67. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein:  
~~Base~~Base<sup>\*</sup> is a pyrimidine base;  
 $R^1$  is H;  
 $R^2$  is H, acyl or an amino acid ester; and  
 $Y^3$  is H.
68. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67, wherein the pyrimidine base is cytosine.
69. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67, wherein the pyrimidine base is thymine.
70. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67, wherein the pyrimidine base is uracil.
71. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67, wherein  $R^2$  is acyl.
72. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67, wherein  $R^2$  is H.
73. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67, wherein  $R^2$  is an amino acid ester.
74. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 71, wherein acyl is of the formula  $C(O)R'$ , wherein  $R'$  is a straight, branched or cyclic alkyl.
75. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 71, wherein acyl is of the formula  $C(O)R'$ , wherein  $R'$  is aryl, alkaryl, aralkyl, alkoxyalkyl or aryloxyalkyl.
76. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 71, wherein acyl is of the formula  $C(O)R'$ , wherein  $R'$  is aryl.
77. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 71, wherein  $R^2$  is acetyl.
78. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 71, wherein  $R^2$  is propionyl, butyryl, hexanoyl or 2-propenyl.
79. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67, wherein  $R^2$  is an ester of an amino acid selected from the group consisting of glycine, alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, methionine, phenylalanine, tryptophan, proline, serine, threonine, cysteine, tyrosine, asparagine, glutamine, aspartate, glutamate, lysine, arginine and histidine.

80. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67, wherein  $R^2$  is an ester of a naturally occurring or synthetic  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $\gamma$  or  $\delta$  amino acid.
81. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67, wherein  $R^2$  is an ester of an amino acid in the L configuration.
82. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67, wherein  $R^2$  is an ester of valine.
83. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the compound has the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

84. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67 or 83 wherein the host is human.